

**LABORING ON THE ALL-INCLUSIVE CHRIST TYPIFIED BY THE GOOD LAND
FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST,
FOR THE REALITY AND THE MANIFESTATION OF THE KINGDOM,
AND FOR THE BRIDE TO MAKE HERSELF READY FOR THE LORD'S COMING**

KEY STATEMENTS

In order to understand the significance
of the Israelites entering Canaan and the warfare in Canaan,
we need to know that Canaan has a twofold significance in typology:
on the positive side, Canaan, a land of riches,
typifies the all-inclusive Christ with His unsearchable riches;
on the negative side, Canaan signifies the aerial part,
the heavenly part, of the dark kingdom of Satan,
the heavenlies that are full of Satan's forces.

In order to fully possess Christ as the good land,
we must beware of having an evil heart of unbelief;
we must exercise our spirit of faith
and keep our heart turned to the Lord
to believe wholeheartedly in His promises,
to believe that He is with His people,
and to believe that we are well able to overcome.

The people of Israel put aside a certain portion
of their produce from the labor on the good land
for the purpose of worshipping God;
if we faithfully labor on the all-inclusive Christ,
we will have the riches of Christ as the produce
to exhibit in the church and have a surplus of Christ
to bring to the church meetings for the corporate worship of God
in spirit and in truthfulness.

The living word of God must pierce into our being and deliver us
from our wondering mind and wandering soul
into Christ as the Sabbath rest in our spirit;
we should not be those who stagger in the wandering of our soul,
but we need to deny the soul and press on into our spirit
to partake of and enjoy the heavenly Christ
so that we might participate
in the kingdom rest of His reign in the millennium.

**HWMR: LABORING ON THE ALL-INCLUSIVE CHRIST TYPIFIED BY THE GOOD LAND
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Scripture Reading: Deut. 8:7-10; 12:6-7, 11-12, 18; 16:15-17; Eph. 3:8; John 4:23-24

**The Surplus of the Produce of the Good Land
and the Corporate Worship of God the Father in Truthfulness**

Deuteronomy 8:7	For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;
Deuteronomy 8:8	A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;
Deuteronomy 8:9	A land in which you will eat bread without scarcity; you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper.
Deuteronomy 8:10	And you shall eat and be satisfied, and you shall bless Jehovah your God for the good land which He has given you.
Deuteronomy 12:6	And there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices and your tithes and the heave offering of your hand and your vows and your freewill offerings and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock;
Deuteronomy 12:7	And there you shall eat before Jehovah your God, and you and your households shall rejoice in all your undertakings, in which Jehovah your God has blessed you.
Deuteronomy 12:11	Then to the place where Jehovah your God will choose to cause His name to dwell, there you shall bring all that I am commanding you, your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the heave offering of your hand and all your choice vows which you vow to Jehovah.
Deuteronomy 12:12	And you shall rejoice before Jehovah your God, you and your sons and daughters, and your male servants and female servants, and the Levite who is within your gates, for he has no portion nor inheritance with you.
Deuteronomy 12:18	But you shall eat them before Jehovah your God in the place which Jehovah your God will choose, you and your son and daughter, and your male servant and female servant, and the Levite who is within your gates; and you shall rejoice before Jehovah your God in all your undertakings.
Deuteronomy 16:15	You shall keep the feast to Jehovah your God for seven days in the place which Jehovah will choose, for Jehovah your God will bless you in all your produce and in all your undertakings; therefore you shall be nothing but joyful.
Deuteronomy 16:16	Three times a year all your males shall appear before Jehovah your God in the place which He will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles. And they shall not appear before Jehovah empty-handed;
Deuteronomy 16:17	Each man shall give as he is able to give, according to the blessing of Jehovah your God, which He has given you.
Ephesians 3:8	To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
John 4:23	But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.
John 4:24	God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

Day 1

Deuteronomy 16:16-17 - Three times a year all your males shall appear before Jehovah your God in the place which He will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles. And they shall not appear before Jehovah empty-handed; Each man shall give as he is able to give, according to the blessing of Jehovah your God, which He has given you.

- I. We use the word **surplus** because the people of Israel **put aside a certain portion of their produce** from the labor on the good land for the **purpose of worshipping God**—Deut. 12:5-15, 17-18, 20-22, 26-27; 14:22-23; 15:19-20; 16:16-17:
- A. The **surplus** of the produce of the good land typifies **Christ**—8:7-10.
 - B. The people of Israel **offered** Canaan's produce **to God and enjoyed it with God**.
 - C. The enjoyment of the surplus of the produce of the good land typifies the **corporate enjoyment of Christ** as our worship to God—Eph. 3:8.
 - D. According to the New Testament fulfillment of this type, when we come to worship God in a corporate way, **we must bring the Christ whom we have experienced**—Eph. 3:17-18; Col. 1:27; 3:3-4, 11.

As we have seen, the other aspect of the New Testament worship is to worship in truthfulness, that is, in reality, in Christ. When we come to the meetings, we have to exercise our spirit, but what should we exercise to do in our spirit? The people in the ancient times had to **bring all their surplus to Jerusalem to offer it and enjoy it with one another in the presence of God**. At least a part of what they offered was food to God. Not only the people of Israel enjoyed the surplus, but God also enjoyed it. This typifies that we come to the meetings to **exercise our spirit to exhibit Christ**. When the people of Israel came together and brought all their surplus to Jerusalem, that became a “fair,” an exhibition, of the produce of the good land. Likewise, when we Christians come together, the Christian meeting is an exhibition of Christ. We exercise our spirit to exhibit Christ.

We all must learn how to exercise our spirit to **minister Christ, apply Christ, and share Christ with others**. This depends on our **daily labor**. If we do not labor on Christ and live by Christ, we will have nothing of Christ in our hand. Even if we understand how to exercise our spirit, we may have the technique but not the material. When we come to the meeting, our spirit may be positive, active, living, on the alert, and ready to exercise, but we may be poor and empty-handed, not having anything of Christ to minister. If this is so, we are worshipping in spirit but not in reality; we are in Jerusalem, but we do not have a surplus in our hands. Therefore, the **church life depends on our daily exercise of the spirit and also on our daily walk in Christ**. We have to **labor** on Christ, **walk** in Christ, **live** by Christ, and have many experiences of Christ. Then we will be rich in Christ and with Christ. When we come to the meeting, we will know how to exercise our spirit, and we will have much surplus of Christ. (*Serving in the Meetings and in the Gospel, chapter 1*)

Day 2

Ephesians 3:8 - To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

Ephesians 3:10 - In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

- II. If we **faithfully labor** on the all-inclusive Christ, we will have the riches of Christ as the produce to **exhibit Christ** in the church meetings—Eph. 3:8; 1 Cor. 14:26:
- A. The proper life of Christians is to **labor on Christ every day** and thus have the rich surplus of Christ to bring to the meetings for a rich exhibition of Christ— v. 26:

1. We **come together** in the church meetings to have an exhibition of Christ—Col. 1:18, 27.
 2. Through our daily experiences of the riches of Christ, these riches will become an exhibition of the produce of Christ—Eph. 3:8, 17-18; Col. 2:6, 9-10, 17.
 3. Our meetings should always be an exhibition to **show forth what Christ is, what Christ has, and what Christ does**—Heb. 1:3; 2:9, 14; 1 John 3:8; 4:9, 15; Acts 2:24, 32-33; Rev. 1:17b-18.
- B. We meet to exhibit not only the Christ given to us by God but also the **Christ we have produced**, the Christ on whom we have labored and whom we have experienced; this is the Christ whom we come together to exhibit—Col. 1:12-13; Phil. 3:10.
- C. If we **continually labor on Christ**, we will have the rich surplus of Christ to bring to the meetings for a rich exhibition of Christ—1 Cor. 1:24, 30; 10:3-4; 14:26.

The problem today is that when we come to the meetings, we only know how to release our spirit and call on the name of the Lord; **we cannot present anything with substance to enjoy with others**. This may be likened to coming to the feast empty-handed or with only a small pigeon, which is enough for only one meal. Since many are devoid of things to present, they have to resort to some amusing activities to make people laugh. Regrettably, everyone then remains empty within.

If we have an **abundant harvest** and are rich in grain, new wine, bulls, sheep, and pigeons, we can bring in our produce, basket upon basket and pile upon pile. We can present our bulls, sheep, pigeons, and fruit. That will be very rich. **Everyone will be very supplied and will want to come back the next time**.

I hope you will not spend your energy on gimmicks; rather, you will **use your effort to produce a content**. You need to sow the field, cultivate the fruit trees, tend the cattle, and take care of the pigeons. Subsequently, the crops in the field, the trees on the mountains, and the bulls, sheep, and pigeons on the farm will all grow. **You will be rich because everything in you will be continually growing**. By this way the sower has seed, the eater has bread, and the offerer has something to offer. When everyone brings his riches to the meetings, the meetings will be delivered from all the old ways. (*Eating the Lord, chapter 4*)

Day 3

Deuteronomy 12:11 - Then to the place where Jehovah your God will choose to cause His name to dwell, there you shall bring all that I am commanding you, your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the heave offering of your hand and all your choice vows which you vow to Jehovah.

Ephesians 3:18 - May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are

- D. Whenever we come together, regardless of the kind of meeting we are having, we should come with the **Christ experienced by us as the surplus** to be offered to God and exhibited to the whole universe and to the enemy, putting him to shame—John 4:23-24; Eph. 3:10, 17; 4:15:
1. Then our meetings will be **enriched** and **strengthened** because they are **full of Christ**—Col. 3:4, 10-11.
 2. Such a church life is an exhibition of Christ, an **expression of Christ**—Eph. 3:21.
 3. We need to bring the **surplus of Christ** to every meeting to exhibit Christ—v. 8.
 4. We need to **enjoy Christ in our daily life** and come together to exhibit Him—1 Pet. 1:8.
- E. To have proper Christian meetings, we need to **contact the Lord daily in our personal life** and then come to the meetings with the realization and understanding that we are coming to exhibit Christ and share Christ with others—1 Cor. 14:26.
- F. “Whene’er we meet with Christ endued, / The surplus of His plenitude / We offer unto God as food / And thus exhibit Christ. / Let us exhibit Christ, / Let us exhibit Christ; / We’ll bring His surplus to the church / And thus exhibit Christ”—*Hymns*, #864, stanza 1 and chorus.

Day 4

- Colossians 1:12* - Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
- 1 Corinthians 14:26* - What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
- Ephesians 3:21* - To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

Day 5

- John 4:14* - But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life.
- John 4:23* - But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.

III. We need to **labor** on the all-inclusive Christ in order to have a **surplus** of Christ to bring to the church meetings for the **corporate worship** of God our Father—John 4:23-24; Eph. 3:21:

- A. “For more than forty years [spoken in 1982] I have been fighting the battle concerning the genuine worship of God. **This battle has not yet been won**”—*The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John*, p. 142.
- B. For our worship of Him, the Father requires that **we come to Him with a harvest of Christ**; thus, we need to come to the church meetings with the riches of Christ—John 4:23-24; Eph. 3:8.
- C. Daily, we should labor on Christ to have a harvest of Christ’s riches to bring to the church meetings for the corporate worship of God the Father; **Christ will be exalted and glorified**, and the **Father will be pleased and satisfied**—Deut. 12:6; 16:15-17; 1 Cor. 14:26; John 4:23-24.
- D. It is crucial that we **diligently labor on Christ** to have our hands full of Christ and then come to the church meetings to enjoy this rich and glorious Christ with God’s children and with God the Father Himself—1 Cor. 10:31; 14:26; John 4:23-24; Rom. 15:6.
- E. Whenever we come to the Lord’s table meeting to remember the Lord and worship the Father, we must **come with the riches of Christ** produced by our daily laboring on Christ—Deut. 16:15-17:
 1. To worship God with Christ is to **worship Him collectively** with all the children of God by enjoying Christ with one another and with God—1 Cor. 14:26.
 2. We need to **produce enough of Christ** so that there will be a **surplus to share with others** and to offer the best part of the produce to God the Father for His joy, delight, and satisfaction—Deut. 15:11; 18:3-4; 12:11.
- F. In these last days the Lord will **recover the genuine experience of Christ** for a surplus of His riches in the meetings for the building of the church as the Body of Christ and for the bride making herself ready for the Bridegroom’s coming.

Offering these three kinds of tithes required the children of Israel to reap an abundance of produce from the land. This signifies that **we the believers must labor on Christ** as the good land in order to be rich in our experience of Him so that we may maintain the priestly service and the fellowship among the saints and supply the needy ones with His riches. If we are lazy and **do not labor** on Christ, we will **not have** a rich surplus of Christ to bring to the church meetings. Because we will come to the meetings empty-handed, we will be unable to share the riches of Christ with others. As a result, we will sit silently, relying on a small minority of the attendants to bear the burden of the meeting. In doing so, we will unconsciously condone the clergy-laity system, which replaces the function of the members of the Body of Christ and nullifies the universal priesthood.

On the contrary, if we all **labor on Christ** day after day and reap the produce of His riches, we will come to the church meetings with an **abundance of His riches**. In the meetings we will all be overflowing with the riches of Christ, offering Him to God and sharing our enjoyment of Christ with one another. Such a meeting in which all the attendants function to share the riches of Christ with one another will overthrow the clergy-laity system and render real worship to God. May we labor on Christ day by day, **experiencing Him in a normal way**, so that we will be filled with His riches in order to maintain the priestly service and fellowship among the saints and to care for the needy saints. (*Taking Christ as Our Person for the Church and Worshipping the Father in Spirit and Truthfulness*, chapter 5)

Day 6

John 4:24 - God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

3 John 1 - The elder to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truthfulness.

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

IV. According to John 4:23-24, we need to **worship God our Father in spirit and in truthfulness**:

- A. **Truthfulness is the revealed divine reality**—the Triune God dispensed into man in the Son, Jesus Christ—becoming our genuineness and sincerity so that we may live a life that corresponds with the divine light (1 John 1:5) and worship God, as God seeks, according to what He is (2 John 1; 3 John 1).
- B. Out of the enjoyment of the divine reality issue human **truthfulness**, **sincerity**, and **genuineness**— John 4:23-24; 1 John 3:18; 2 John 1; 3 John 1.
- C. Truthfulness is the human genuineness, sincerity, honesty, trustworthiness, and faithfulness as a human virtue and as an **issue of the divine reality**—John 14:6.
- D. *Truthfulness* in John 4:23-24 denotes the divine **reality becoming man's genuineness and sincerity** for the true worship of God.
- E. The divine reality is Christ as the fountain of living water, the life-giving Spirit, **partaken of and drunk by the believers to be the reality within them**, which eventually becomes their genuineness and sincerity in which they worship God with the worship He seeks—vv. 10, 14, 23.
- F. To worship the Father in truthfulness is to worship Him with the Christ who has saturated our being to become our personal reality through our experience and enjoyment of the Triune God as the divine reality—vv. 23-24.

WORSHIPPING THE FATHER IN SPIRIT

In the Old Testament we have a type, a picture, of God's economy, whereas in the New Testament God's economy is fulfilled. In John 4 the Samaritan woman said to the Lord Jesus, "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain, yet you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men must worship" (v. 20). In ancient times not only the Jews but also the Samaritans had the writings of Moses and learned the things concerning the worship of God from them. The Lord said to the Samaritan woman, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness" (John 4:24). According to the Old Testament, the children of Israel were to worship God not only in Jerusalem, the place chosen by Him for His habitation, but also with the offerings. In keeping with this instruction, the **Lord told us to worship the Father not only in spirit but also in truthfulness**. In the **fulfillment** of the typology, the **human spirit** replaces Jerusalem as the designated place, and Christ as the reality of the offerings replaces the sacrifices used in the worship of God.

Jerusalem as the unique center of God's worship typifies our **human spirit**. This is revealed by the Lord's word that the true worshippers will worship the Father "neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem" but "in spirit" (John 4:21, 23). **Today our human spirit is the unique ground of God's choice**—the ground chosen and ordained by God—and the proper place for His worship. In order to worship the Father in spirit, we should exercise and release our spirit. Instead of relying on religious forms or traditions, we need to care for our spirit.

WORSHIPPING THE FATHER IN TRUTHFULNESS

In John 4:24 the Lord Jesus said that those who worship God must worship Him not only in spirit but also in **truthfulness**. To worship God in truthfulness is not to worship God merely in the human virtue of sincerity or according to the proper doctrines or biblical teachings; it is to **worship Him with Christ as the divine reality becoming man's genuineness and sincerity**.

We need to understand the word truthfulness in the context of the Gospel of John. Verse 14 of chapter 1 says, "*The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.*" The Greek word for reality in this verse is translated as "truth" elsewhere. Verse 17 says, "*The law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.*" Although many regard truth as doctrine, **we should not substitute doctrine for reality**, because grace can only be matched by reality, not doctrine. The law could not come, because it had no life; hence, it was given. Grace, however, is a person; hence, grace came. When Christ came to be a man, grace came as a living person. The law can be separated from Moses. After giving the law to God's people, Moses eventually died, but the law is still here. The law and Moses were two separate things, but **grace and Christ are one**. Grace is Christ Himself, the embodiment of God. When Christ as the Word becoming flesh came, grace also came. The New Testament reveals that grace is God Himself in the Son to be enjoyed by us. Whereas grace is God enjoyed by man, truth, or reality, is God realized by man. When Christ came to be a man, **He came as grace for us to enjoy and as reality for us to realize**. Like grace, **truth is Christ Himself**. (*Taking Christ as Our Person for the Church and Worshipping the Father in Spirit and Truthfulness, chapter 4*)